



# SAFETY NEWS

*A Publication of the* **ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Mike Huckabee, Governor**

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**James L. Salkeld, Director**

## **ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OSHA CONSULTATION PROGRAM AND MANAGER RECOGNIZED**

**T**he OSHA Consultation Program at the Arkansas Department of Labor received the prestigious OSCAR (OSHA's Consultation Achievement Recognition) Award from the U. S. Department of Labor on May 2, 2005. Clark E. Thomas, Safety Administrator/Project Manager with the Arkansas Department of Labor accepted the award at the Annual National Project Manager's Conference held in Westminster, Colorado. The award recognized the Arkansas Department of Labor for services to the small business community that were "above and beyond" the call of duty.

In addition to the national award, Mr. Thomas and his staff received the Regional Administrator's Distinguished Consultation Project Award from John B. Miles, Jr., Regional Administrator, OSHA Region VI. This award was in recognition of outstanding program accomplishments during fiscal year 2004 which brought both regional and national recognition to the Arkansas consultation program. A number of accomplishments were highlighted during the award ceremony, including the education and training services provided through annual conferences held in various regions throughout Arkansas; the exceptional 10-hour training courses available for general industry and construction; the formation of the first SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) Association in the United States; the innovative outreach programs to reach teens, and the development of new Teen Safety videotapes and DVDs designed as an employer or community resource to help protect Arkansas' youngest workers.

Mr. Thomas was also personally recognized during the conference by receipt of a certificate of appreciation for his 30 years of service to the small business community through the consultation program.

## **ODOM'S TENNESSEE PRIDE RECEIVES TOP AWARDS**

**F**or the second year in a row Odom's Tennessee Pride Sausage in Little Rock has earned the highest safety awards attainable from the American Meat Institute and the National Safety Council. The Award of Honor and the Gold Star award are presented for achieving exceptional results in occupational safety and health programs. The levels of awards are based on safety performance as well as implementation of various key components of an effective safety and health program. To achieve the Gold Star award, the facility must have maintained an incident rate of at least 50% below the Bureau of Labor Statistics industry average.

Plant Safety Manager Drexel McCalvin credits a total company commitment from the top down to achieve this excellent performance record. "The culture of Odom's Tennessee Pride creates an employee conviction that safety is a job requirement. We value our principals to make our facility the safest possible while making the best product we can. Everyone here takes a lot of pride in what we do."

Odom's Tennessee Pride is currently working with Arkansas Department of Labor OSHA Consultation and OSHA Area **(contd. on Pg. 2—See Odom's)**

***What, Not Registered Yet!!!!***

### **Arkansas Governor's Safety and Health Management Conference**

***June 29-July 1, 2005***

***Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs***

**Keynote Speaker Paul Vitale: *Enthusiasm—Your Secret Weapon in Safety!***

Sponsored by Ark. Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers

Co-sponsored by Ark. Dept. of Labor, Ark. Workers' Compensation Commission, Safety Council of the Ozarks, World Safety Organization, Ark. American Industrial Hygiene Association

***Register on-line today at [www.ticketsage.com/asse](http://www.ticketsage.com/asse)***

***See conference agenda at [arkansas.asse.org/conference.htm](http://arkansas.asse.org/conference.htm)***

***For more information contact Lela Taskey at 501-753-6615 or e-mail [ltaskey@mcsi.bz](mailto:ltaskey@mcsi.bz)***

## AMUSEMENT PARK MANAGER FOUND GUILTY OF RECKLESS HOMICIDE

A jury in Tennessee recently convicted an amusement park manager of reckless homicide for the fatal fall of a woman from their pendulum-like ride, The Hawk. Fifty year old June Alexander fell 60 feet to her death when her harness came loose in midair, in front of her entire family as they celebrated her son's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Prosecutors for the case argued that the safety system on The Hawk had been tampered with or the ride wouldn't have ever taken off the ground. The Hawk swings gradually higher in the air before turning 360 degrees. (The same type ride is also operational at the Magic Springs and Crystal Falls Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas.) Jumper cables were found in Tennessee's system's electrical panel which expert witnesses testified had bypassed the backup safety mechanisms. As general manager of the amusement park, Charles Stanley Martin was the only staff member who had access to the panel and a reason to make the alteration. District Attorney Al Schmutzer stated that he cared more about selling tickets than protecting the lives of his customers. Martin, however, denied altering the system and insisted that others had access to the panel.

Defense attorney's for Martin blamed the technician, Phil Castellano from The Hawk's Italian manufacturer, Zamperla. They stated that the ride was unsafe and referenced defects in the platform and motor which Castellano repaired, thus giving him access to the panel with the faulty jumper cables.

Martin faces up to four years in prison when he's sentenced in July. However, he could have received as much as 25 years in prison had the jury chosen to convict him of second-degree murder.

So how should Arkansans feel about boarding any amusement rides in our state when we hear this distressing news coming from one of our border states? Reassured. The Arkansas Department of Labor's Arkansas Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH) inspectors thoroughly check every amusement ride at county, district and state fairs every time they are set up. Permanent rides at the state's various theme parks are inspected every six months, as are go-kart tracks. All the department's inspectors are trained and certified by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials.

The Hawk at Magic Springs has been "specifically tested and retested on a weekly basis, along with all of the other 'iron rides,' as they call them in the trade, to ensure that all of the safety devices are working properly," said Mike Watson, chief amusement ride inspector. Watson went on to explain that Arkansas' Hawk not only has different safety systems, it's restraint system is "new and improved" over the Tennessee ride, which is several generations older.

Watson said that Magic Springs has also asked the Labor Department to inspect their rides even more often than required by law. "Every ride is checked three times, thoroughly, and a full operation of the ride is done before the park ever opens," Watson said.

After the park closes in the fall, its personnel begin a fairly extensive rework that takes all winter. This entails dismantling some of the rides, as well as performing preventative maintenance on others. The rides are also inspected every day during the high season, especially at critical points where wear may occur.

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, AOSH inspectors checked 2,970 rides at 289 sites in Arkansas. A six-member Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board appointed by the Governor also functions to assist with the formulation of rules and regulations regarding the safe operation of the state's amusement rides.

The Department of Labor cannot guarantee that you won't get dizzy or queasy on any of the amusement rides in the state, but our nationally certified inspectors are doing everything THEY can to insure your safety and well being. For more information on amusement ride safety, contact Chief Amusement Ride Inspector Mike Watson at 501-682-9091 or e-mail [mike.watson@arkansas.gov](mailto:mike.watson@arkansas.gov).

### *(Odom's-contd. from pg. 1)*

Office to become a VPP site. In the last year, Odom's Tennessee Pride has also lowered its workers' compensation costs by 50%, and achieved an incident rate well below the national average. Earlier this year they attended a VPP (OSHA Voluntary Protection Program) audit of a turkey processing plant in Ozark, where they shared information and examined the auditing process to foster their efforts to attain VPP status.

Plant Manager Jim McConnell remembers years ago when he started his career in the meat industry that safety did not always have the value as it does today. He explained that a safety culture is a commitment to our beliefs and ethics, it's the right thing to do. "When enough people are motivated to achieve the same goal, anything can happen. I credit our entire staff from hourly employees to our management team, everyone. It's our responsibility to assure a safe work environment at Odom's Tennessee Pride."

Odom's Tennessee Pride works closely with local OSHA and the Arkansas Department of Labor in their efforts to educate their and other employees about safety. Mr. McCalvin recently addressed the Arkansas Department of Labor's safety workshop in Little Rock on Ergonomics and the recognition and prevention of Musculo-Skeletal Disorders.



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A TREE!**

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## TRENCHING ACCIDENT TAKES ARKANSAN'S LIFE

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette recently ran an article about a collapsing dirt wall killing a digger in a ditch. The article recounted how a 35 year old construction worker in Benton died on the job when a dirt wall collapsed on him as he helped dig a ditch for a sewer line.

The primary hazard of trenching and excavation is employee injury from collapse. Soil analysis is important in order to determine appropriate sloping, benching, and shoring.

Federal OSHA has a new Trench Safety Poster, available in both English and Spanish, which provides quick tips to ensure employees are working in protected trenches. Tips include:

- Slope or bench trench walls, or
- Shore trench walls with supports, or
- Shield trench walls with trench boxes.
- Provide safe access through the use of ladders, ramps or stairways.
- Keep heavy equipment away from trench edges.
- Know where underground utilities are prior to digging.
- Keep excavated or other materials at least two feet back from the edge of trench.

For more information on trenching, or to print out free copies of OSHA's Trench Safety Posters, visit their website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). Or contact the Arkansas Department of Labor's Video Library to borrow one of our videos free on trenching at 501-682-9090, or visit our website at [www.arkansas.gov/labor](http://www.arkansas.gov/labor).

## FACT SHEETS FOR HISPANIC AND YOUNG WORKERS AVAILABLE

OSHA recently published two fact sheets highlighting safety and health issues for two specific groups of workers.

The Young Workers fact sheet places youth worker safety and health materials at your fingertips. The fact sheet has information on OSHA's young worker coordinators, the Federal Network for Young Worker Safety and Health (FedNet), the Department of Labor-sponsored YouthRules! program and more.

Hispanic Outreach is a new fact sheet that outlines OSHA's multi-pronged approach to improving workplace safety and health for Hispanic workers, and includes information on many Spanish-language publications available on the agency's website. The publication also spotlights OSHA's Compliance Assistance web page for Hispanic Employers and Workers.

You can print both fact sheets as well as many others free of charge from OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov/OshDoc/toc\\_fact.html](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/toc_fact.html)



## CARPAL TUNNEL NEWSBREAK

A trial conducted at several hospitals in Spain indicated that steroid injections seem to work as well as surgery in treating carpal tunnel syndrome, a repetitive injury of the wrist. Patients who received the shots reportedly had more improvement and less pain at 3 months after the injections than those who had undergone surgery!



Could you use new training material for your next safety meeting? Take a look at our free videos at [www.arkansas.gov/labor/divisions/film\\_video\\_p1.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/labor/divisions/film_video_p1.html)

### SAFETY NEWS

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## SPENCER HARRIS OF MAGNOLIA RECOGNIZED FOR SHARP STATUS

**S**pencer Harris of Arkansas, a machine shop in Magnolia, was recognized by the Arkansas Department of Labor at a ceremony on March 10 for reaching SHARP status. SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) is a national recognition and exemption program to reward small employers who have exemplary safety and health management systems.

Employers are eligible to apply for SHARP if: they have no more than 250 employees on site and no more than 500 at all sites corporation-wide, they are a high-hazard industry in a single, fixed worksite, they have at least one year of operating history and they have a Lost Workday Injury and Illness Incidence Rate and Total Recordable Case Rate below the industry average.

Congratulations to Spencer Harris' 23 employees for a job well done!

## SAFETY TIPS FOR THE LANDSCAPE/ HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY

**I**s it my imagination or is every other pickup on the road owned by a landscape company? That may be what has compelled federal OSHA to unveil a new safety and health topics page to provide web-based assistance for workers and employers in this ever-growing industry. You can access information to develop and implement comprehensive safety programs, and link to sites that identify the most common industry hazards and possible solutions to those hazards. The page also provides employer and employee resources for Spanish speaking workers and youth workers in the industry. Visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

